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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

### PREVALENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Reports from State health officers for the week ended January 25, 1919, indicate that the number of reported cases of influenza decreased generally throughout the country as compared with the preceding week. (See p. 193.)

Alabama, Illinois, New Jersey, and Virginia reported slight increases in the number of cases, but the following-named States reported fewer cases than during the preceding week: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

Reports from the zones surrounding Army camps also show a slight general decrease in the number of cases of influenza reported. (See p. 198.)

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### **A Comparison of the Mortality Rates by Weeks During the Influenza Epidemic of 1889-90 and During the Primary Stage of the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 in 12 Cities in the United States.**

A partial comparison of the influenza epidemic of 1889-90 with the present epidemic with respect to mortality may be made from statistics of the former epidemic in certain cities as given in a treatise by Dr. Samuel W. Abbott, late secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Health,<sup>1</sup> and from preliminary statistics for the same cities as published by the Bureau of the Census in its Weekly Health Index.

In the paper cited above, Dr. Abbott gives statistics of deaths from all causes and from "respiratory diseases." The Bureau of the Census' Weekly Health Index gives deaths from all causes and from influenza and pneumonia (all forms). Since deaths from respiratory diseases are not directly comparable with deaths from influenza and pneumonia, comparison of the mortality during the two epidemics must be based on deaths from all causes. It appears, moreover, from comparing mortality from all causes with mortality

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<sup>1</sup> Abbott, Samuel W., M. D., secretary of the Board of Health of Massachusetts: *The Influenza Epidemic of 1889-90. Twenty-first Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts* (Public Doc. No. 34), 1890, pp. 307-384.